NEW MEXICO INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE UPDATE
2012 - 2013 Influenza Season

Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)

Influenza Activity in New Mexico for Week Ending March 2, 2013 (MMWR Week 09)

Influenza in the state was at low to moderate activity by several indicators:

- **Outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI):** twenty-six of the 26 sentinel outpatient provider sites reported a total of 9,140 patient visits, of which 272 (3%) were identified as visits for ILI. The previous week ending February 23rd reported 3.3% influenza-like illness. See graph below displaying the comparison of statewide ILI activity to national ILI activity trends.

1 Weekly ILI and lab data may change as additional reports are compiled.

2 Influenza-like Activity (ILI) is defined as Fever (≥ 100°F [37.8°C], oral or equivalent) AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.
ILI activity by state health regions: by NMDOH regions within the state (refer to page 6 table footnote defining the regions by county), activity continues to drop to baseline levels in most regions with a range of 1.5% ILI (Metro Region) to 4.9% ILI (Southeast Region). One region (NW) had ILI activity above its baseline level (4.0%). See graph below for the current season’s weekly ILI by region.

Sentinel outpatient reporting sites by Region:
NW Region of state: San Juan Regional Medical Center, Farmington; Acoma-Canoncito- Laguna Indian Health Service Hospital, Acoma; and Albuquerque Health Partners Urgent Care, Rio Rancho.
NE Region: Raton Family Practice Associates, Raton; Taos-Picuris Indian Health Clinic, Taos; Pecos Valley Medical Center, Pecos; La Familia Medical Clinic, Santa Fe; Los Alamos Family Care Clinic, Los Alamos; Jicarilla Apache Indian Health Clinic, Dulce and Espanola Family Care Clinic, Espanola.
Metro Region: Lovelace Downtown Medical Center and University of New Mexico Student Health Clinic, both in Albuquerque.
SE Region: Carlsbad Medical Center, Carlsbad; Lea Regional Medical Center, Hobbs; Eastern New Mexico Medical Center, Roswell; Ruidoso Medical Associates, Ruidoso and Roosevelt General Hospital in Portales.
SW Region: Gila Regional Medical Center, Silver City; Hidalgo Medical Services Clinic, Lordsburg; Ben Archer Health Center, Deming; Ben Archer Health Center, Dona Ana; La Clinica de Familia, Sunland Park; Ben Archer Health Center, Columbus; Mescalero Apache Indian Health Hospital, Mescalero; Sierra Vista Hospital, Truth or Consequences and the New Mexico Mining and Technology Institute, Socorro.
• **Laboratory tests for influenza**: since early October, the Scientific Lab Division (SLD) has reported 395 positive samples for influenza by PCR and/or culture, of 793 samples tested (49.8%). One hundred and twenty two of the positive samples were influenza type B; 261 were influenza A/H3; 10 were influenza A/H1 (former 2009 H1N1 pandemic strain) and 2 were influenza A (not subtyped). See the graph below for a representation of the circulating influenza types and subtypes, and the weekly percent of positive specimens, by week/date of collection.

![Virologic Testing Results, by Confirmed Type/Subtype, 2012 - 2013 Season](image)

• **Influenza-related hospitalizations**: the New Mexico Emerging Infections Program (EIP) conducts active, population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed influenza-related hospitalizations in seven New Mexico counties: Bernalillo, Chaves, Doña Ana, Grant, Luna, San Juan, and Santa Fe. Weekly de-identified data are sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cumulative rates by age group for NM influenza-related hospitalizations are displayed below. Rates by age group range from 5.8 per 100,000 in the 5-17 years age group to 79.7 per 100,000 in the 65+ years age group.
Influenza-related deaths: There have been 109 pneumonia and flu-related deaths since October 1, 2012. Of those, 13 were confirmed to have been caused by influenza. Two of those 12 deaths were in the pediatric age group: a 2 year old female from McKinley County and a 15 year old male from Torrance County and both occurred in the month of January.
• **Geographic Spread of Influenza in the State:** NMDOH reported the state influenza activity as ‘Local’ to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). See the table on the next page for full definitions of activity levels. Below is a map of the U.S displaying New Mexico activity in comparison to influenza activity in bordering states, regions and nationally. This map is produced by the CDC Influenza Division.

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![FluView Map](image)

*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.*

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This information is collected by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau, Epidemiology Response Division of NMDOH. For questions, please call 505-827-0006. For more information on influenza go to the NMDOH web page: [http://www.health.state.nm.us/flu/](http://www.health.state.nm.us/flu/) or the CDC web page: [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/fluivirus.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/fluivirus.htm)
### TABLE OF INFLUENZA ACTIVITY LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Level</th>
<th>ILI activity*/Outbreaks</th>
<th>Laboratory data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No activity</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>And No lab confirmed cases†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporadic</td>
<td>Not increased</td>
<td>And Isolated lab-confirmed cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
<td>OR Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Increased ILI in 1 region**: ILI activity in other regions is not increased</td>
<td>And Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with increased ILI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 or more institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in 1 region; ILI activity in other regions is not increased</td>
<td>OR Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with the outbreaks; virus activity is no greater than sporadic in other regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Increased ILI in less than half of the regions (2 or less)</td>
<td>And Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in less than half of the regions (2 or less)</td>
<td>OR Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td>Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least 3 of the 5 regions</td>
<td>And Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Influenza-like illness: Fever (>100°F [37.8°C], oral or equivalent) and cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza)

† Lab confirmed case = case confirmed by rapid diagnostic test, antigen detection, culture, or PCR. Care should be given when relying on results of point of care rapid diagnostic test kits during times when influenza is not circulating widely. The sensitivity and specificity of these tests vary and the predictive value positive may be low outside the time of peak influenza activity. Therefore, at the start of the season, NMDOH uses lab confirmation by PCR or culture to declare the presence of lab-confirmed influenza in the state. Positivity by other lab methods is recognized and tracked as another influenza activity indicator as the season progresses.

‡ Institution includes nursing home, hospital, prison, school, etc.

**Region: population under surveillance in a defined geographical subdivision of a state. A region could be comprised of 1 or more counties and would be based on each state’s specific circumstances. In New Mexico, the NMDOH regions are: Northwest Region—San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola counties; Northeast Region—Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, Union, Mora, Harding, Santa Fe, San Miguel and Guadalupe counties; Metro Region—Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties; Southeast Region—Quay, Curry, DeBaca, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Chaves, Eddy and Lea counties, and Southwest Region—Socorro, Catron, Grant, Sierra, Otero, Dona Ana, Luna and Hidalgo counties.